



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
July 2003

Montana Statewide Assessment Calendar

Below is the calendar for Montana assessment events. The calendar will be updated regularly and can be accessed online at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/calendar.pdf>



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
www.opi.state.mt.us

Assessment for Learning

Date (s)	Phase 1 or Phase 2	Event	Details
July/August 2003	Phase 1	Iowa Test Results Review and Release Schedule	July 5 -10, 2003 Districts receive passwords and user names July 15-25, 2003 Districts review results August 12, 2003 Reportable results online
October 6, 2003 Missoula	Phase 2	Repeat of the popular spring 2003 workshop for teachers: "The Teacher as Assessor"	Measured Progress and OPI will contact districts after August 15
October 7, 8, 9, 2003 October 7: Missoula and Billings October 8: Bozeman October 9: Glasgow and Great Falls	Phase 2	Workshops for Teachers: "Evaluating Student Work"—Measured Progress	Measured Progress will mail information to school principals on August 15
March 8 - 26, 2004	Phase 1	Norm-referenced test window—Iowa Tests	Grades 4, 8, 11 Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science
April 5 - 16, 2004	Phase 2	Criterion-referenced test window—Measured Progress	Grades 4, 8, 10 Reading and Math

Test of English Proficiency

As part of the Mountain West Consortium, the Office of Public Instruction is developing a test of English Proficiency for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. Montana teachers are participating in bias review and item development this summer, along with teachers from Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

The following are the scheduled events:

July 2003	Bias Review
August 2003	Item Development
October 2003	Bias Review (cont'd)
February 2004	Pilot Test
Sept/Oct 2004	Field Test

Lynn Hinch is the OPI contact:

lhinch@state.mt.us or (406) 444-3482.

Overview of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System

A power point presentation highlighting the details of MontCAS is online

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/03AssessOverview.pdf>

Adequate Yearly Progress Information

An official email was sent to all district contacts on July 2, 2003. The copy is online:

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/FEDPrgms/MTSASE72003.pdf>

Tentative Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Information Timeline

Week of July 7	Email Update
Week of July 21	Mail Update
August 11	Districts will receive 2003 AYP notification letters

IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE: The released IOWA test data on the secure sites in July cannot by itself be used to determine AYP. Please wait for this August 11 notification.

Regional Workshops—Site details and times TBA

August 13	Kalispell
August 14	Missoula
August 18	Glendive
August 19	Billings
August 21	Helena

Primary OPI Contacts:

Accreditation: Al Mc Milin, (406) 444-3128 or amcmilin@state.mt.us

Title I: BJ Granbery, (406) 444-4420 or bgranbery@state.mt.us

State Assessment Director: Judy Snow, (406) 444-3656 or jsnow@state.mt.us

MontCAS, Phase 1, The Iowa Tests

Iowa Score Interpretation Materials

If you missed the score interpretation video conference in May, the information is still available by:

- Video stream online
<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/streamer/MontCas/>
- Power point online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/IowaResultsppt.pdf>
- Video tape available for checkout from OPI Resource Center

Contact Raelen Williard: rwilliard@state.mt.us or (406) 444-2082 or 888-332-6171 x 2082.

Aggregated state Iowa Tests results for 2003 will be online on July 18 at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/03PrelimAggre.pdf>

New Reports for Grades Eight and Eleven—Individual Performance Profile

In May, the Office of Public Instruction purchased the individual performance profile reports for grade four. The same report has been purchased by OPI for grade eight and eleven and was mailed to districts in June of 2003.

Districts that ordered this report as an optional service, will not be receiving a second copy. Riverside will issue you a credit for this service, which you will receive in the mail. If you have not received this credit, please contact Riverside Customer Service immediately at 800-323-9540.

A sample of the report is also available online at: http://www.riverpub.com/products/group/itbs_a/scoring.html#indperm

MontCAS, Phase 2, The Criterion-Referenced Test—Measured Progress

Teacher Workshops

“Evaluating Student Work,” teacher workshops developed and presented by Measured Progress will be conducted October 7 (Missoula and Billings), 8 (Bozeman), and 9 (Glasgow and Great Falls). Measured Progress will mail letters to school principals August 15.

Calculator Use on the Criterion-Referenced Test

The math portion of the criterion-referenced test that will be administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in April of 2004 has sections that require calculator use. The computation burden for students will be reduced if calculators are used, permitting students to demonstrate their problem-solving skills more accurately. Computation skills will be assessed in “No-Calculator” test sections.

It is recommended that students use calculators that are familiar to them (their own or class calculators). This will ensure that students are comfortable during the test and not burdened by unfamiliar calculator functions.

Development of an Alternate Assessment for the CRT

Montana’s test contractor for the criterion-referenced test will be working with the Office of Public Instruction to develop an alternate assessment to accompany the criterion-referenced test. The alternate assessment will meet the requirements of the compliance agreement between OPI and the USDE and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Montana’s new alternate assessment will be

- aligned to and based on Montana content standards
- manageable for teachers
- evidence-based, and
- connected to IEPs.

An advisory committee and task development team will work on the alternate assessment during the summer of 2003 in preparation for Beta testing in November 2003 and implementation in grades 4, 8, and 10 in reading and math with the first administration of the criterion-referenced test in April of 2004.

For further information, contact:
Judy Snow
State Assessment Director
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
1-888-332-6171
(406) 444-3656
jsnow@state.mt.us